

Consumers Petroleum

there for you ... since 1936

204 SPRING HILL ROAD • TRUMBULL, CT 06611 • PHONE (203) 261-3123 • FAX (203) 261-7755

February 8th, 2011

To: Co-Chair Paul R. Doyle
Co-Chair Joseph J. Taborsak
Senator Kevin D. Witkos
Representative Rosa C. Rebimbas

Members General Law Committee:

I am here today in support of the S. B. 864 "An Act Concerning Grocery Beer Permits". Passage of "An Act Concerning Grocery Beer Permits" will put our industry on a level playing field with other like industries in Connecticut.

Passage of this bill will enable us to stay competitive with neighboring New England states and New York by allowing the sale of beer in convenience stores.

The convenience store industries biggest challenge is overcoming the decline in gasoline sales and merchandise sales due to the unfair advantage given to package stores and big box retailers like Stop & Shop, Sam's Club and Costco. Under Connecticut law big box retailers are permitted to sell both gasoline and beer, but it prohibits small local businesses such as Consumers Petroleum, which employees over 150 Connecticut residents from selling both beer and gasoline.

S.B. 864 will remove the unfair advantage given to the package stores. Convenience stores will have the ability to compete with package stores which tend to sell cigarettes, lottery tickets and newspapers which are core products for us. S.B. 864 will allow for consistent and fair governing of beer sales in the state of Connecticut.

Please support S. B. 864 concerning Grocery Store Beer Permits.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Smith